

District Overview

The St. Louis District was in operation in 1870 and officially established in 1872 with the primary mission of facilitating navigation on the Mississippi River.

Linked to engineer history in St. Louis are Captain Henry Miller Shreve, inventor of the snagboat and William Clark of the famous Lewis and Clark exploration, both of whom lie buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery.

While initially created to serve river navigation, the St. Louis District has accumulated several other major missions of national importance. These include: Flood Damage Reduction, Navigation, Recreation, Environmental, Engineering, Water Supply, Hydropower, Readiness, Regulatory, Curation/Management of Archaeological Collections, Photogrammetric Mapping, Ordnance and Explosive Waste Program and FUSRAP. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civil works mission also supports the national defense efforts in time of mobilization.

The District occupies a strategic central position among Corps districts in the United States; major portions of the Inland Waterways System join together in this District. It encompasses some 28,000 square miles, divided almost equally between Missouri and Illinois, and is home to about 3.5 million people. The spine of the District is a 300 mile stretch of the Mississippi from Saverton, Missouri (Just south of Hannibal), to Cairo, Illinois, at the mouth of the Ohio River.

In addition to caring for the Mississippi River, the District is responsible for all or parts of seven major tributary rivers: the Illinois, Kaskaskia and Big Muddy in Illinois, and the St. Francis, Meramec, Salt and lower Missouri Rivers in Missouri. St. Louis District operates five lakes for flood control and other purposes (one of which has hydropower) and five navigation locks and dams (four of those are part of the stairway of locks stretching from St. Louis to Minneapolis), along with many associated recreational facilities. It also oversees the maintenance and operation of 83 flood control levee systems and exercises regulatory control over some 42,000 miles of waterways. South of St. Louis the Mississippi runs open-river all the way to the Gulf of Mexico and the District maintains the navigation channel, down

to the mouth of the Ohio. In excess of 100 million tons of waterborne commerce travels on this channel annually.

To carry out its mission, the District maintains high levels of expertise in the primary functions of planning, engineering, construction, operations and maintenance and real estate. These functions are supported by experts in the fields of contracting, law, human resources, information management, logistics and a variety of specialty areas.

Ancillary missions for which the District is also responsible include: Water Quality, Fish and Wildlife Management, Environmental and Wetlands Preservation, Cultural Resource Management and Water Safety.

All St. Louis District missions are carried out for the benefit of our customers: The American People.